



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Human Services
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37219-1602

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Michelle Mowery Johnson

615.313.4707 (O)

615.272-0845 (P)

615.424-0544 (M)

13 TENNESSEE COUNTIES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Counties across the state receive awards for high payment accuracy rates

Nashville— The federal government recognized 13 Tennessee counties for excellence in the administration of the Food Stamp Program. These counties include: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Washington, Greene, Sullivan, Knox, Bradley, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rutherford, Davidson and Madison.

The counties are all members of the \$6 Million Club. The club—made up of 169 counties in eight southeastern states—was formed in 1987 to identify corrective action and strategies for the administration of food stamp benefits. These counties all issue more than \$6 million in food stamp benefits annually.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services administers the Food Stamp Program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutritional Services Division.

“We are extremely pleased that our hard work on administering food stamp benefits to those most in need has not gone unnoticed,” said Glenda Shearon, Assistant Commissioner for DHS's Adult and Family Services Division. “Providing timely and accurate food stamp benefits to eligible Tennesseans is an integral part of what we do at DHS.”

Knoxville and Davidson Counties both received special awards. The east Tennessee county was recognized as the county with the highest payment accuracy rate for the past 10 years. Davidson County was honored for significant improvement in food stamp payment accuracy during federal fiscal year 2002.

The Food Stamp Program is 100% federally funded. During the month of April 2003, 318,948 Tennessee households comprised of 736,224 individuals received \$60,342,407 in food stamp benefits.

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